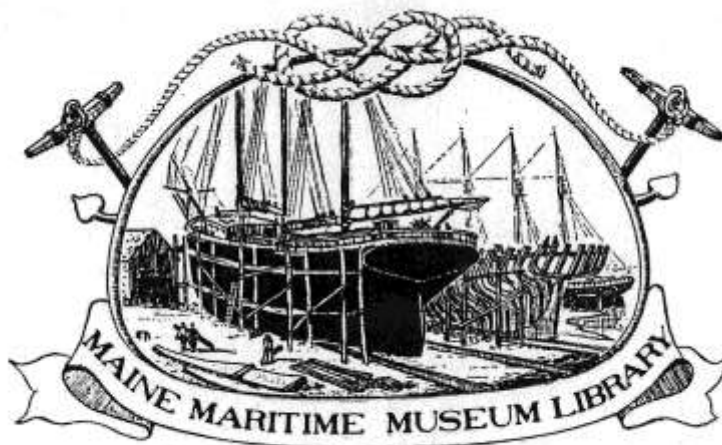


Maine Maritime Museum Library

243 Washington Street
Bath, Maine 04530-1638
(207) 443-1316, ext. 328, 336



**Inventory
for
Manuscript Collection
MS-475**

Captain Joseph Thorndike Papers
Inclusive dates 1864-1885

by
Nathan R. Lipfert

December 2017

One Folder
Accession # 2006.087.01

A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

COPYRIGHT RESTRICTION

The material described herein is the physical property of the Maine Maritime Museum Library. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors of the various items, or to their legal representatives, or to Maine Maritime Museum. For further information, consult the library staff.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be *“used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research.”* If a user later uses a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of “fair use,” that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if fulfillment of the order is judged to be in violation of copyright law.

It is the user’s responsibility to understand the copyright law concerning the use of the historical documents contained in this library.

Copyright © 2017 by the Maine Maritime Museum

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Maine Maritime Museum Library.

Abstract

Thorndike, Joseph, Captain (1827-1893)

Papers, 1864-1885

One folder

Master mariner of Rockland, ME.

Collection comprised entirely of six miscellaneous documents relating to the life and seafaring career of Captain Thorndike.

Bequeathed by Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in 2006.

MS-475; Accession # 2006.087.01

Finding aid in repository; folder level control.

Added entries—people

Pierce, True P.

Thorndike, Emma L.

Thorndike, Joseph, *Captain*

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels)

American Ship Masters' Association

Daniel Williams (Schooner)

Added entries—places

Rockland (ME)

Added entries—key terms

Alabama Claims

Acquisition

These documents of Captain Joseph Thorndike were bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in November and December 2006.

Provenance

Capt. Parker was an extremely knowledgeable collector and an expert on North American schooners. He picked up many parts of his collection of maritime papers by purchase from dealers, auctions, or estate sales, and by gifts from relatives of maritime figures. It is not known where he obtained the Capt. Thorndike papers. These papers were found in Captain Parker's study with other similar items, and were part of his maritime library which he bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum.

This group of papers is related to MS-474 by the mention of the schooner *Daniel Williams* in one document. Captain Sidney P. Hunt of MS-474 commanded that schooner immediately after Capt. Thorndike did. The two men were brothers-in-law.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research. Researchers should seek permission to obtain copies, and for publication of any sort.

Physical Condition

These letters have the usual minor tears and dirt of 19th-century documents. Overall, the Captain Thorndike papers are in very good condition.

Biographical/Historical Notes

Joseph Thorndike was born 18 May 1827, probably the son of Charles and Eliza Thorndike of Rockland, Maine. In the 1850 census he is 23, a mariner, and still living with his parents and nine siblings. The age range of the siblings was 27 to 2. Two brothers and an assumed brother-in-law are also listed as mariners. One of his much younger sisters was Emma L. Thorndike. Father Charles ran a livery stable and had real estate valued at \$11,500.

He was married at Rockland 21 June 1857 to Albina W. Hunt. She was the daughter of lime merchant John W. and Rachel Hunt, and so the older sister (by six years) of Sidney P. Hunt (see MS-474). In 1858 they had a daughter, Anna Josephine, known as Josie. Josie became a school teacher, and is believed to have not married, and to have had no children.

In 1858 Joseph Thorndike was part owner and commander of the bark *Golden Era* of Rockland, 126 feet long. He evidently had taken over George Thorndike's 2/16ths ownership – more details in MS-135, Waldoboro Registers and Enrollments. He assumed command of the schooner *Daniel Williams* in 1863 and 1864. In the 1860 census he is living with his wife and baby daughter, next door to his older brother William H., also a master mariner.

The 1870 Rockland census records Joseph as a retired ship master, at the age of 43, although perhaps that was a joke, because the 1880 census lists him as a master mariner, and the Rockland directories list him that way into the 1890s.

Capt. Joseph Thorndike died 16 October 1893 at Rockland. Albina lived on until 12 January 1910, and Josephine until 1951. They are all buried in the Achorn Cemetary in Rockland.

The schooner *Daniel Williams* was built at Frankfort, Maine in 1858. Initially owned at Frankfort, she was briefly enrolled at Philadelphia before coming under Rockland ownership, with majority of shares being owned by Joseph Thorndike. She measured 160 83/95^{ths} tons, 94 feet by 24 feet by 8

feet, drawing 10 feet. Thorndike remained a significant shareholder, sometimes managing owner, from 1863 through 1871, according to surviving records, enrolled most of the time but occasionally registered. She is not listed in the vessel registers after 1872.

Scope and Content Notes

Collection is comprised of six documents (including an envelope) from Captain Thorndike's career. They include his 1864 certification as an Approved Shipmaster from the American Ship Masters' Association, a brief accounting of various expenses relating to the schooner *Daniel Williams*, a bill for the gravestone of Emma L. Thorndike, and an 1885 letter to the captain from True P. Pierce, County Attorney, relating to an Alabama Claim.

The document concerning the schooner *Daniel Williams* refers to expenses incurred from 1882 to 1885, many years after the vessel had been out of the listings. They appear to be legal expenses, and since one of them is a payment to attorney True P. Pierce, it seems that the *Williams* may be the vessel referred to in the letter about the Alabama Claims. Since the vessel obviously survived the Civil War, it is not clear what the connection might be, but perhaps the schooner was damaged in some way by a Confederate cruiser.